



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (BHR)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)
CENTRAL ASIA TASK FORCE**

CENTRAL ASIA REGION – Complex Emergency

Situation Report #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

November 8, 2001

Note: this Situation Report updates previous Central Asia Task Force Situation Reports and Fact Sheets. New information is italicized.

BACKGROUND

Two decades of war in Afghanistan, including a decade-long Soviet occupation and ensuing civil strife, have left Afghanistan impoverished and mired in an extended humanitarian crisis. Government infrastructure, including the ability to deliver the most basic health, education, and other social services, has collapsed. Significant resources are directed to the war effort. Severe restrictions by the Taliban, including a restriction on women working outside the home, have added to the impact of poverty, particularly on the many households lacking able-bodied adult men. The Taliban controls about 90 percent of Afghanistan's territory.

Humanitarian prospects worsened sharply in Afghanistan in September 2001 due to developments both inside and outside the country. Osama bin Laden, who resides in Afghanistan under Taliban protection, is the leading suspect in the September 11 terrorist attack against the United States. Fears of a U.S. reprisal triggered a population exodus from major Afghan cities, both towards other points in Afghanistan and towards the country's borders. The beginning of U.S. air strikes on October 7 caused additional movement. International staff of all relief agencies withdrew after September 11. Even prior to September 11, there were signs that relations between the international community and the Taliban were worsening significantly. These new developments added to an existing crisis of extensive displacement stemming from civil conflict and a debilitating three-year drought.

Afghanistan: Numbers Affected (* denotes new information)

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Total population</i> (CIA Factbook) | <i>Old Caseload Refugees</i> (UNHCR) |
| 26,813,057 | Iran..... 1,500,000 |
| <i>Refugees Since September 11, 2001</i> (UNHCR) | Pakistan..... 2,000,000 |
| Pakistan..... 135,000* | <i>Internally Displaced</i> (U.N.) |
| Iran..... Unknown | Since September 11, 2001..... 180,000 |
| <i>Refugees Since September 2000</i> (UNHCR) | Since 2000 1,100,000 |
| Pakistan..... 152,000 | Old caseload 1,000,000 |

Total FY 2001/2002 U.S. Government (USG) Assistance to Afghanistan\$296,283,152
Total FY 2001/2002 USG Assistance to Tajikistan\$68,208,180

CURRENT SITUATION

Overview. Fighting between the Northern Alliance and the Taliban continues to cause displacement and hinder humanitarian assistance activities in Afghanistan. Internally displaced person (IDP) and refugee camps along the borders with Iran and Pakistan are becoming overcrowded and tensions are rising as more Afghans stream in. Relief agencies are negotiating with local and national authorities to increase the capacities of these camps.

Snows have begun falling on the Anjuman Pass, exacerbating the sense of urgency to move sufficient quantities of humanitarian assistance into Afghanistan before the winter months. The World Food Program (WFP) continues to increase its cross-border deliveries of food aid into Afghanistan as security and logistical capacity allows. However, several highly vulnerable

districts in northern and western Afghanistan remain inaccessible.

Political/Military. News sources report that the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance continues to advance toward the key city of Mazar-e-Sharif, which lies on important supply routes to neighboring Uzbekistan. However, the number of districts overtaken by the Northern Alliance remains unconfirmed.

On November 6, the Taliban Embassy in Pakistan called on the U.N. to increase its relief efforts in Afghanistan in time for the harsh winter season. Several U.N. agencies responded by calling on the Taliban to improve the security situation for relief agencies and allow them greater access to vulnerable individuals.

Food Aid. WFP reports that it is continually increasing its cross-border deliveries of food aid into

Afghanistan. Shortly after the events of September 11, WFP was able to transport only 200 metric tons (MT) of food aid into Afghanistan per day. However, by the first week of November, WFP was transporting an average of 2,400 MT per day. According to WFP, the increased rate of transport is due to a new strategy of bypassing urban centers and moving the food directly to areas of need. In addition, improved security in and around the five main transport corridors has helped to increase the deliveries. WFP is hopeful that it will soon be operating at a capacity to meet the transport requirement of 52,000 MT per month.

However, several highly vulnerable districts in northern and western Afghanistan remain inaccessible due to continued banditry, lack of communication, and the ongoing civil war. WFP listed districts in the provinces of Badghis (Jawand, Qadis, Ghormash, and Tagab Alam), Ghor (Chagcharan), Baghlan (Nahrain, Pul-e-Khumri, and Burka), Balkh (Keshende), and Faryab (parts of Kohistan district) as inaccessible. An estimated 500,000 people live in these areas, and WFP estimates that 27,000 MT of food is required to avert a severe food shortage by the end of December.

Compounding the food distribution problem is the onset of winter, particularly in mountainous areas, where 32,000 MT of additional food aid is required over the next three to four weeks to sustain the food-insecure population. During the first week of November, one meter of snow fell in the Anjuman Pass leading to the Panjshir Valley. The snow has not yet impeded truck deliveries, but WFP is working to secure trucks that can operate in deep snow, as well as snow plows. WFP also plans to airdrop food using black, snow-proof bags to package the food.

| Current WFP Food Aid Stocks | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Location | Quantity (MT) | Beneficiaries |
| Afghanistan | 14,916 | 1,789,898 |
| Region | 72,927 | 8,751,289 |

(From WFP's Afghanistan Regional Emergency Daily Situation Report 11/7)

Pakistan. *The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reports that the population of the Killi Faizo staging site, near the Chaman border crossing in Baluchistan, has reached a total of 3,000 refugees. The maximum capacity of the site (approximately 1,600 people) was exceeded last week, leading Pakistani authorities to suspend registration. An estimated 300 additional refugees were denied entry into the camp by local authorities this week and subsequently refused to leave to go to Spin Boldak, a Taliban-run site near the Pakistan border. On November 5, Pakistan authorities allowed approximately 300 women and children to shelter in the registration tents inside the Killi Faizo staging area. However, approximately 100 men are still waiting outside the site for entrance. UNHCR and Pakistan officials are still negotiating formal approval for the refugees to become part of the camp population.*

On November 8, UNHCR announced that Afghan refugees in Killi Faizo will be transferred to the Roghani camp in Baluchistan this weekend to alleviate overcrowding in Killi Faizo and make way for new arrivals.

UNHCR reports that the number of "invisible" refugees that have fled to Pakistan since September 11 has now reached 135,000. Many of these refugees have been living in old refugee camps in Pakistan or in cities such as Peshawar and Quetta. Of these new arrivals, an estimated 75,000 have entered through the North West Frontier Province and 60,000 through the Baluchistan Province.

During the week of November 6, WFP began the airlift of more than 2,000 MT of food from Quetta, Pakistan to Turkmenabad, Turkmenistan over a 10-day period. From Turkmenabad, the food will be transported via truck to remote areas of northern Afghanistan. USAID/Food for Peace funding is supporting this operation.

| UNHCR Contingency Sites in Pakistan | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------|-------|
| Location | Capacity | Pop. |
| Roghani/Tor Tangi (Baluch.) | 70,000 | |
| Killi Faizo (Baluch.) | 1,600 | 3,000 |
| Mohmand/Khyber (NWFP) | 22,000 | |

Iran. *In western Afghanistan, Makaki, a camp operated in a Taliban-controlled area of Nimroz Province by the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), has now reached its 6,000-person capacity, according to UNHCR. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reports that an additional 3,000 IDPs are living in the open outside the camp. After being denied entry to the camp, IDPs reportedly blocked a road to the Iranian border in protest. UNOCHA also reports the movement of displaced persons towards the border. Many Afghans have expressed fears of forced round-ups by the Taliban near the border, as well as fears of being used as human shields by Taliban forces. Iranian authorities are hoping to transfer some of the new arrivals to Mile 46, a camp in a Northern Alliance-controlled portion of Nimroz.*

| Iran / IRCS IDP Sites in Afghanistan | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Location | Capacity | Population |
| Makaki (Nimroz) | 6,000 | 9,000 |
| Mile 46 | | 700 |
| Total | | 9,700 |

Afghanistan. *The humanitarian and security situations in Afghanistan remain precarious as fighting between Northern Alliance and Taliban forces continue. Consequently, UNHCR continues to be concerned about the security of aid workers and the protection of IDPs in camps near the borders of Iran and Pakistan.*

The U.N. reports that many IDPs in the eastern and central regions of Afghanistan are able to find shelter on their own, alleviating some of the burden on humanitarian agencies.

The U.N. is also concerned with the presence of armed fighters in the vicinity of IDP camps. Their presence complicates the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the U.N. assurance that aid does not fall into the hands of the Taliban or Northern Alliance. There have also been reports of the forced conscription of young IDP men, who reside in the camp.

The humanitarian situation in Kandahar continues to deteriorate, causing population movements from the city to rural areas. WFP reports that water, electricity, and telecommunication service has been disrupted or cut-off entirely. WFP also reports that the price of one kilogram of wheat flour rose by 80 percent in Kandahar since September 11. The U.N. has been unable to confirm whether their offices in Kandahar are under the control of the Taliban. The Taliban's seizure and return of humanitarian offices and assets, and the forced cessation of humanitarian activities remains inconsistent from one area to another.

During the week of November 5, UNOCHA announced the development of a 30-day Operational Emergency Assistance Plan to enhance NGO and U.N. agency planning for humanitarian operations in Afghanistan as well as assistance to Afghan refugees. The plan is designed to create a complete picture of estimated needs inside Afghanistan; a complete picture of which organizations are operating in what areas and sectors; an accountability tool for monitoring performance and achievements; and a mechanism for identifying which areas are inaccessible and why. The plan will be implemented on a 30-day rolling basis, with the first period spanning November 12 through December 12, 2001.

USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Background

On October 4, President George W. Bush announced a \$320 million assistance program for Afghanistan. Funding will support assistance to Afghans both inside and outside Afghanistan's borders, with support for food and a wide variety of other relief needs.

On October 4, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Christina B. Rocca redeclared a complex humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan for FY 2002. To date, FY 2001 and FY 2002 USG humanitarian assistance for Afghans is provided by USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, USAID/Democracy & Governance (DG), USDA, the Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM), the Department of State's Department of Defense Demining Program, the Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

(State/INL), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The assistance includes both assistance inside Afghanistan and assistance to Afghan refugees in neighboring countries.

In Tajikistan, on October 10, 2001, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires James A. Boughner declared a disaster due to drought, and requested funds for a seed and fertilizer distribution program. USAID/OFDA responded by providing \$998,180 through the U.S. Embassy to CARE for the purchase and distribution of winter wheat seeds and fertilizer.

USAID/OFDA Assistance

Personnel

USAID/OFDA Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) personnel have deployed to Uzbekistan to assess humanitarian activities and logistical capacity in the area. The DART personnel in Uzbekistan will complement the DART in Pakistan.

In April 2001, USAID/OFDA and State/PRM deployed an assessment team to western and northern Afghanistan, including Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif, to assess drought and nutrition conditions in affected areas.

Airlifts and Commodities – FY 2002

Turkmenistan

Airlift to Turkmenistan – During the week of November 5, the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) airlifted the following USAID/OFDA commodities from Pisa, Italy to Ashgabat, Turkmenistan aboard C-17 aircraft: 20,000 wool blankets, 100 rolls of plastic sheeting, 200 MT of BP-5 High Energy Biscuits, and 1 MT of sugar. All commodities are consigned to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for distribution in Afghanistan.

Value including transport.....\$751,102

Airlift to Turkmenistan – two chartered planes carrying 1,000 rolls of plastic sheeting for emergency shelter arrived in Ashgabat October 18 and were consigned to UNICEF. Value including transport.....\$403,200

Pakistan

Airlift to Islamabad – On October 23, Bear McConnell, Director of the USAID Central Asia Task Force, arrived in Islamabad, Pakistan aboard a U.S. Air Force C-17 cargo plane carrying 20,400 blankets from USAID/OFDA stockpiles. An additional 15,000 blankets arrived via commercial transport October 25. The blankets will be provided to UNHCR as a contingency for a possible refugee influx. Value including transport.....\$312,350

Health Kits to Pakistan – USAID/OFDA has provided five health kits to UNICEF in Islamabad as an in-kind contribution. The health kits can support a population of 10,000 for up to three months.\$29,415

New Grants – FY 2002 (Afghanistan)

Catholic Relief Services – distribution of new blankets to 200,000 people, primarily female-headed households, widows, the disabled, and IDPs, in the Central Highlands \$988,000

International Resources Group – coordination of Afghanistan Food Augmentation Team for USAID..... \$360,112

Grants – FY 2002 (Afghanistan)

Concern Worldwide – shelter program in northeast Afghanistan to encourage up to 5,000 displaced families to return to their homes by repairing looted and destroyed homes \$1,203,343

U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) – seed multiplication, procurement, and distribution to drought-affected farmers throughout Afghanistan \$1,095,000

Mercy Corps – distribution of WFP food to 10,000 families, potable water for 3,000 families, and distribution of non-food items to 10,000 families in southern and central Afghanistan \$2,000,000

WFP – purchase, transport, and bagging of 15,000 MT of wheat \$6,000,000

WFP – purchase of trucks to support the delivery of food aid \$5,000,000

ACTED – pre-positioning of food and non-food emergency relief items in northeastern Afghanistan. \$5,500,000

ACTED – IDP camp management and support in Baghlan..... \$630,000

FAO – seed multiplication..... \$300,000

GOAL – food, shelter, water/sanitation, and winterization in Samangan and Jozjan Provinces. \$5,500,000

IOM – support for distribution of food and non-food relief commodities in Badghis, Faryab, and Balkh provinces..... \$562,313

International Medical Corps (IMC) – health assistance for IDPs and local residents in Herat. \$735,000

U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) – nutrition surveillance, health, and water/sanitation activities country-wide \$1,650,000

Save the Children (SC)/US – nutrition surveillance in northern Afghanistan \$206,488

SC/US – food programs in Faryab and Sar-e-Pul, and emergency heating for hospitals in Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif. \$2,000,000

UNOCHA – humanitarian coordination..... \$2,500,000

UNICEF – Water and Environmental Sanitation activities \$2,500,000

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) – support for pre-positioning and mobilization of food and non-food stocks for use within Afghanistan in addressing the needs of 540,000 drought and war-displaced people, as well as support for airlifts \$2,500,000

WFP – support for a Joint Logistics Center and humanitarian air operations \$2,500,000

Total USAID/OFDA FY 2002.....\$45,226,323

Grants – FY 2002 (Tajikistan)

CARE – purchase and distribution of winter wheat seeds and fertilizer, benefiting an estimated 4,500 drought-affected families

Total USAID/OFDA Tajikistan FY 2002\$998,180

USAID/FFP

WFP – 72,700 MT of P.L. 480 Title II wheat and complementary commodities.

Total USAID/FFP FY 2002.....\$38,555,000

State/PRM

Note: State/PRM funds listed reflect actual contributions to the listed agencies. Plans for funding are not included until funds have been obligated.

New State/PRM Grants – FY 2002

ICRC – Contribution to ICRC’s Revised Emergency Afghan Conflict Appeal. \$6,500,000

International Federation of the Red Cross Red Crescent (IFRC) – Contribution to IFRC’s Revised Appeal \$3,000,000

IOM – Support for IOM’s Appeal for Emergency Response to the Crisis in Afghanistan..... \$2,000,000

United Nations Development Program (UNDP) – Contribution to the Project Management Information System in Afghanistan (ProMIS) \$160,000

UNOCHA – Support for UNOCHA’s Donor Alert for Afghans in Afghanistan and in Neighboring Countries \$2,000,000

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) – Support
for UNFPA’s Special Program for Afghanistan and
Neighboring Countries \$600,000

WFP – Contribution to WFP’s Special
Operation/Logistics Support to Interagency Relief
Efforts and Humanitarian Assistance for the Afghan
people \$4,000,000

UNHCR – Funding for UNHCR’s Emergency
Humanitarian Assistance Plan for Afghans.
..... \$10,000,000

Total State/PRM FY 2002.....\$28,260,000

Department of Defense (DOD)

*Between November 1 and November 7, DOD dropped
1,310,280 humanitarian daily rations (HDRs), valued
at \$4.30 each, into Afghanistan.*

Total DOD FY 2002\$5,634,204

USG ASSISTANCE - AFGHANISTAN

FY 2001

Note: detailed breakdowns of FY 2001 assistance are available in previous Central Asia Region Situation Reports.

TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance FY 2001.....\$178,607,625

FY 2002

TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan FY 2002.....\$117,675,527

FY 2001/2002

TOTAL USG Humanitarian Assistance to Afghanistan FY 2001/2002.....\$296,283,152

USG ASSISTANCE - TAJIKISTAN

Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001\$67,210,000

*Note: FY 2001 USG assistance to Tajikistan included assistance through USAID/OFDA, USAID/FFP, USDA, the
Department of State, and Freedom Support Act funds administered through a variety of agencies.*

Total USAID/OFDA Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2002.....\$998,180

Total USG Assistance to Tajikistan FY 2001/2002 \$68,208,180

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USAID/OFDA bulletins can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html